Greenland IPY Project          GL-IPY 009
ADJUSTING EDUCATION TO GLOBAL AND LOCAL NEEDS

Within the general theme of Challenges in a Changing Environment: Survival Strategies – past and present, the project on “adjusting education to global needs” is focusing on how the internationalization and globalization processes are influencing the education systems, both at the vocational/professional and the academic level. Competition is getting harsher, and in order to enable the Arctic agenda to become more visible in the international as well as the local discussion, it has been necessary to develop new conditions for cooperation, as well as new modes of operating. The education systems are under a two sided pressure – a bottom up influence from local communities stressing the need of inclusion of local tacit knowledge and the local agenda, and from a top down influence stressing the need of comparability and a higher degree of transferable coded knowledge. In addition, the dispersed structure is an important hindrance for arranging education programs at higher education levels, which is necessary for a continuing supply much needed qualifications.

A workshop on changes in vocational training systems in Canada and the North Atlantic realm is planned for the Circumpolar Universities Association tri-annual conference in 2006.

Prime Investigators: A consortium including participants from Iceland, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Canada and Alaska and NORS-Roskilde University (Rasmus Ole Rasmussen). Greenland contact: Birger Poppel.